

## REMARKS

Claim 17 was rejected under Section 112 on the grounds that Figure 4 does not show the claimed structure. While this may be true, Figure 5, for example, clearly does show the claimed structure. In Figure 5, the face plate 503 covers the entire surface of the base and includes a transparent section 509, so that part of the surface underneath the face plate can be viewed.

Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 17 under Section 112 is respectfully requested.

Concerning the prior art rejections, the Examiner disputes the construction of “substantially all” on two bases. First, the Examiner contends that the cited case law is unrelated. The cited case law finds that the ordinary meaning of “substantially all” is “all but an insignificant amount.” Since the Federal Circuit has already decided what the ordinary meaning is, it is incumbent upon the Examiner to show that some other meaning is required by the specification. Absent such a showing, the rejection should be reconsidered.

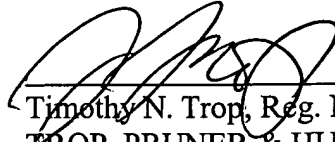
The second basis for the rejection is that “significant” in “all but an insignificant amount” should be determined subjectively. That is, “significant” should be determined by what is significant to the prior inventor. This is plainly inconsistent with the Federal Circuit’s ordinary meaning definition. The Federal Circuit’s use of “significant” cannot be to subjectively “significant” since such a definition would be indeterminable. Moreover, the term “significant” modifies “amount,” not region, area, or some other term. Thus, the only measure of “all but an insignificant amount” is with respect to the amount of coverage. Therefore, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Of course, if the Federal Circuit had applied the Examiner’s definition of “substantially all” (that is determined based on what the inventor considers important to the inventor), then plainly the term would have been found to have been indefinite under Section 112 by the Federal Circuit. This approach was soundly rejected by the Federal Circuit. Therefore, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

To the extent that the Examiner is suggesting that “substantially all” is too vague, plainly this argument has already been disposed of by the Federal Circuit before. Therefore, this position will also be unavailing.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 4, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy N. Trop', is written over a horizontal line.

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